



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2014  
**Meeting Location:** Juvenile Justice Center  
1000 South Michigan  
South Bend, IN

**Council Members Present:** James Pippin, Regional Manager DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; William Horton, St. Joseph County DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley.

**Others In Attendance:** Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN/Community Partners; Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Beverly Gatling, Resolute; Renee Battle, Resolute; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Becky Loth, Lifeline; Tatum Miller, Youth Villages; James Clifton, The Villages; Adrienne Batteast, Lifeline; Shelly Overgaard, Youth Services Bureau; Paige Hamilton, SCAN; Marzy Bauer, YWCA North Central, Betsy Kuhn, The Villages; Marla Godette, Keys Counseling; Mike Marchi, Memorial Epworth; Matthew Gooding, DCS; Tai Crayton, White's Residential.

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by James Pippin.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.

2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 8/25/2014 reviewed. William Horton motioned approval of the minutes as written. Erin Shidler seconded. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith reported September actual \$149,055, YTD \$422,131. 23.04% of budget spent to date. Referrals are picking up. Flex funds are up at YTD 32%. \$60,000 allotted for flex funds, \$500 per family. Once flex fund is spent that is it. Flex funding is used for utility and apartment costs. Three other sources that can help are a requirement to receive funds and case management services for four to eight sessions. They will provide emergency utility assistance if necessary. Service summary for September reviewed; 189 referrals, 73 enrolled, unable to contact 21 with 34 families declining services. 326 families served in contract period, families would have been rolled in. 1,250 people touched overall by this program. Outcomes are where they are supposed to be or better. Everyone is doing a great job. Paige is working with the schools to make sure they are aware of us and keeping services on their radar. Region 3 abuse and neglect prevention rolling numbers tracking back twelve months; 99.12% remained abuse and neglect free, 100% abuse, 99.12% neglect. Local Prevention dollars received a budget increase; \$785,002 currently at 23% should be at 25%. Gear up is getting referrals but could use more. We will be sending out reports every month around the 20<sup>th</sup>. Jamie added that Paige did a wonderful job being called in at the last moment, altering his schedule, to participate during the press conference and he was very thankful to have Paige there.

4. Service Update. Matt Gooding, Program Director reported for Dion Smith, RFP ended mid-October. RFP scoring will be done at the management meeting. Decisions are due out February 1<sup>st</sup> with service

standards in effect July 1, 2015. Mental health standard has a different RFP process, contracts starting July 1<sup>st</sup> also. Working on transition of referrals in KidTraks. Have an addiction workgroup with providers' statewide, if your agency provides addiction services and want to be a part of the workgroup email Matt, Sara Sparks or Lisa Rich. Spring training pilot for home based therapist for agencies to be able hire new graduate students. They have created some core topics that these individuals need to know before they start working with families. Working on core for home-based casework supervision, currently a master's degree, intends to bump it down.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, reported on the expenditure report as we do not have a budget yet. October expenditures at 3.1 million; out of that Child Welfare spent 1.7 million and Probation 1.4 million. Comparison report reviewed; 12.4 YTD October FY2015 Compared to 12.2 FY2014. Child Welfare increased from 6.6 million to 7 million and Probation dropped from 5.6 million to 5.4 million. Increases seen in foster homes and preservation services. Care of wards in institutions dropped.

#### 6. County Updates.

Marshall County - Michael Carroll, Director, One worker in training. Receiving a lot of domestic violence reports, and divorces with non- custodial parent making the allegations.

Kosciusko County – Erin Shidler, Director, announced hiring a second supervisor, Lindsay Castro. Lindsay will handle permanency and Amanda will work with the assessment side. Her promotion leaves them with an FCM position to fill.

St Joseph County – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, reported Linda Cioch is no longer the Director. Interviews start today to fill that position. Teresa Zornig, Division Manager, reported two FCM positions to fill, reports on an upswing, and hired a new attorney

Elkhart County – Tony Sommer, Director, continue to have a lot of reports. Three FCM vacancies, two filled, one more to fill. Supervisor position to fill, struggling with turnover lately.

Erin Shidler motioned adjournment. Teresa Zornig seconded. Meeting adjourned 10:47a.m.

*The next RSC meeting will be January 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am in Elkhart.*